

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 2, please replace the second complete paragraph with the following paragraph:

AB --A less expensive manufacturing process of a sieve suitable for depth filtration provides for metal filaments to be thermally sintered on a wire mesh before the planar structural element is rolled (see also NL-A-8 105 081). A planar structural element suitable for depth filtration is produced by this method also, however this has the disadvantage that the filaments cannot be joined in absolutely homogeneous manner, which causes fluctuations in the density distribution. As a result, the sieve cannot be aligned optimally, which in turn leads to compromises in determining the maximum pore size and filter area available for use.--

On page 2, after the third complete paragraph, please insert the following paragraph:

AB --DE OS 1 961 050 describes a planar structural element made from metal wires, in which internal fibres are arranged between metal wires, either twisted into a strand or as monofilaments. This promotes particular coarseness of the fibre surface, which is caused by the twisting of individual monofilaments or by the roughening of the surface of a single monofilament. However, such a

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A3 planar structural element can only be used for particularly coarse filtration, and a change to the structure as indicated in the citation would lead to the formation of larger slits. In particular, such cloths are not suited for use in depth filtration.--

On page 2, please replace the fourth complete paragraph with the following paragraph:

A4 --The object of the invention is therefore to improve a planar structural element, particularly for filtration, such that optimal filtration results can be obtained with a planar structural element that is inexpensive to produce. This object is solved in that a metal fibre thread is introduced between metal wire, and in which a single capillary has a diameter less than 100 μm , preferably less than 30 μm , wherein a section through the metal fibre thread (5 to 12) is provided with more than 100, preferably more than 500 individual capillaries.--

On page 5, please delete the second complete paragraph.

A marked-up copy is attached.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-15 and replace with new claims 16-28 as follows: